

<sup>1</sup> Because Plaintiff is acting pro se, the documents which he has filed in this case are held to a less stringent standard than if they were prepared by a lawyer and therefore, they are construed liberally. *See Haines v. Kerner*, 404 U.S. 519, 520-21, 92 S.Ct. 594, 30 L.Ed.2d 652 (1972).

Morgantown, Monongalia Hospital, was seen by emergency room staff. Dr. Felix Brizuela, D.O., PLLC, neurology found I had CIDP and had several seizures. He referred me to Dr. P. Puranik. He said all I had was carpal tunnel in my hands, which I didn't have. So Dr. Proff said I had CIDP, which there is no cure for. It's a rare cancer.

(Id., pp. 2 - 3.) Plaintiff does not request any relief. (Id.)

### ANALYSIS

Federal Courts are Courts of limited jurisdiction that are empowered to consider cases authorized by Article III of the United States Constitution and statutes enacted by Congress. Bender v. Williamsport Area School District, 475 U.S. 534, 541, 106 S.Ct. 1326, 1331, 89 L.Ed.2d 501 (1986). Title 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1332 provide that the Federal Courts have jurisdiction over cases involving federal questions and diversity of citizenship. Title 28 U.S.C. §1331 provides that “[t]he district courts shall have original jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States.” Title 28 U.S.C. §1332 provides that the District Courts shall have original jurisdiction of all civil actions where the matter in controversy (1) exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000, exclusive of interests or costs, and (2) is between citizens of different states. 28 U.S.C. §1332(a)(1).<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Title 28, U.S.C. §1332 specifically provides:

(a) The district courts shall have original jurisdiction of all civil actions where the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and is between –

- (1) citizens of different states;
- (2) citizens of a State and citizens or subjects of a foreign state . . . ;
- (3) citizens of different States and in which citizens or subjects of a foreign state are additional parties; and
- (4) a foreign state, defined in section 1603(a) of this title, as plaintiff

In the instant matter, Plaintiff does not allege the basis for the District Court's jurisdiction. Rule 8(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedures provides that a Plaintiff must plead "a short and plain statement of the grounds for the court's jurisdiction." Fed.R.Civ. P. 8(a)(1); also see Dracos v. Hellenic Lines, Ltd., 762 F.2d 348, 350 (4<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1985)("plaintiffs must affirmatively plead the jurisdiction of the federal court"), citing McNutt v. General Motors Acceptance Corp., 298 U.S. 178, 189, 56 S.Ct. 780, 785, 80 L.Ed. 1135 (1936). Construing Plaintiff's Complaint liberally, the undersigned will consider whether Plaintiff is alleging Section 1331 or 1332 as a basis for the Court's jurisdiction. First, the undersigned finds that Plaintiff's Complaint does not involve any question of "federal law" as to invoke jurisdiction under Section 1331. Plaintiff does not allege a violation of a federal statute or constitutional provisions. Plaintiff complains that Defendant was negligent in providing medical treatment.<sup>3</sup> Next, the Court finds that the District Court does not have

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and citizens of a State or of different States.

<sup>3</sup> Rule 8(a)(2) further requires that a Plaintiff plead "a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief." Fed.R.Civ.P. 8(a)(2). In Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 129 S.Ct. 1937, 173 L.Ed.2d 868 (2009), the Supreme Court stated as follows:

[T]he pleading standard Rule 8 announces does not require "detailed factual allegations," but it demands more than an unadorned, the-defendant-unlawfully-harmed-me accusation. A pleading that offers "labels and conclusions" or "a formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action will not do." Nor does a complaint suffice if it tenders "naked assertion[s]" devoid of "further factual enhancement."

*Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678, 129 S.Ct. 1937, 1949, 173 L.Ed.2d 868 (2009)(citations omitted). Although pleadings filed by a *pro se* plaintiff are entitled to liberal construction, this "does not mean that the Court can ignore a clear failure in the pleading to allege facts which set forth a claim currently cognizable in a federal district court." *Drummond v. South Carolina Department of Corrections*, 2012 WL 5077575, \* 3 (D.S.C. Oct. 1, 2012)(citing *Weller v. Department of Social Services*, 901 F.2d 387, 390-91 (4<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1990)). In the instant case, Plaintiff merely concludes that Defendant committed medical malpractice by "mis-diagnosing" his illness and providing "improper treatment." Plaintiff fails to allege adequate facts supporting his claim.

diversity jurisdiction pursuant to Section 1332. Section 1332 requires that the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000. Plaintiff fails to request any monetary damages. Furthermore, it does not appear that Plaintiff and Defendant are “citizens of different states.” Based on the foregoing, the undersigned finds that this Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction, and Plaintiff’s Complaint should be dismissed.

### **PROPOSAL AND RECOMMENDATION**

The undersigned therefore respectfully **PROPOSES** that the District Court confirm and accept the foregoing findings and **RECOMMENDS** that the District Court **DENY** Plaintiff’s Application to Proceed *in Forma Pauperis* (Document No. 1.), **DISMISS** Plaintiff’s Complaint (Document No. 2.) and remove this matter from the Court’s docket.

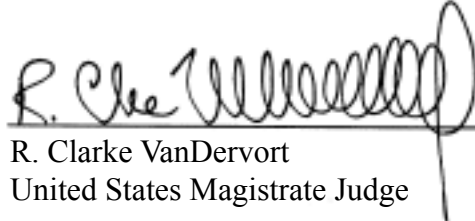
The Plaintiff is hereby notified that this “Proposed Findings and Recommendation” is hereby **FILED**, and a copy will be submitted to the Honorable United States District Judge Irene C. Berger. Pursuant to the provisions of Title 28, United States Code, Section 636(b)(1)(B), and Rule 6(d) and 72(b), Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Plaintiff shall have seventeen (17) days (fourteen days, filing of objections and three days, mailing/service) from the date of filing of this Findings and Recommendation within which to file with the Clerk of this Court specific written objections identifying the portions of the Findings and Recommendation to which objection is made and the basis of such objection. Extension of this time period may be granted for good cause.

Failure to file written objections as set forth above shall constitute a waiver of *de novo* review by the District Court and a waiver of appellate review by the Circuit Court of Appeals. Snyder v. Ridenour, 889 F.2d 1363, 1366 (4th Cir. 1989); Thomas v. Arn, 474 U.S. 140, 155 (1985); Wright v. Collins, 766 F.2d 841, 846 (4th Cir. 1985); United States v. Schronce, 727 F.2d 91, 94

(4th Cir. 1984). Copies of such objections shall be served on opposing parties, District Judge Berger and this Magistrate Judge.

The Clerk is requested to send a copy of this Proposed Findings and Recommendation to Plaintiff, who is acting *pro se*, and transmit a copy to counsel of record.

Date: August 7, 2013.



R. Clarke VanDervort  
United States Magistrate Judge